

I CLAIM:

1. A method of delivery of Internet files in a broadcast manner from an Internet server to Internet clients while minimizing interaction between the server and the clients, comprising the steps of:

at server side, obtaining clients' requests for Internet files via a communication link;

composing a server selection list of Internet files containing at least all files requested by clients;

downloading files of the server selection list from Internet sources;

composing a broadcast timetable containing each file of the server selection list with a time and a channel of its transmission via a broadcast medium;

transmitting the broadcast timetable via the broadcast medium prior to transmission of any file of the server selection list;

transmitting each file of the server selection list via the broadcast medium at the time and on the channel specified in the broadcast timetable;

at client side, receiving said broadcast timetable sent by server via said broadcast medium;

processing user's requests for Internet files against the broadcast timetable;

determining transmission time and channel of an Internet file requested by user if the file is listed in the broadcast timetable;

sending a request to server via said communication link for an Internet file requested by user if the file is not listed in the broadcast timetable;

downloading each file requested by user at the time and from the channel of its transmission via said broadcast medium; and

presenting downloaded files to user.

2. A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising the step of retaining each Internet file in said server selection list and therefore repeatedly transmitting the file via said broadcast medium during a period of time proportional to a number of clients requested the file.

3. A system for transmission of Internet files in a broadcast manner from an Internet server to Internet clients, comprising:

a receiver coupled with a communication link for receiving clients' requests for Internet files;

a network interface connecting server to the Internet;

a multichannel data transmitter coupled with a broadcast medium for transmitting files from server to clients in a broadcast manner;

a request processor coupled to said receiver for obtaining clients' requests for Internet files and composing a server selection list of Internet files containing at least all files requested by clients;

a download manager coupled to said request processor for obtaining said server selection list and further coupled to said network interface for downloading files of the server selection list from Internet sources;

a file storage coupled with said download manager for storing the downloaded Internet files;

a broadcast timetable manager coupled to said download manager for scheduling transmission of downloaded files via said multichannel data transmitter and composing a broadcast timetable listing each file of the server selection list with a time and a channel of its transmission; and

a broadcast control coupled to said broadcast timetable manager for obtaining the broadcast timetable and coupled to said file storage for obtaining downloaded Internet files, said broadcast control further coupled to said multichannel data transmitter for providing transmission of the broadcast timetable prior to transmission of any Internet file listed in the broadcast timetable, and providing transmission of each Internet file at the time and on the channel specified in the broadcast timetable.

4. A system as defined in claim 3; and further comprising a transmitter coupled with said communication link for transmitting data individually addressed to certain clients.

5. A system for reception of Internet files transmitted in a broadcast manner from an Internet server to Internet clients while minimizing interaction between the server and the clients, comprising:

 a transmitter coupled with a communication link for transmitting client requests for Internet files to server;

 a channel selector coupled with a broadcast medium for selective reception of Internet files transmitted from server in a broadcast manner;

 a receiver coupled with the broadcast medium for receiving a broadcast timetable transmitted from server, said broadcast timetable listing each Internet file scheduled for transmission with a time and a channel of its transmission;

 a broadcast timetable processor coupled to said receiver for downloading the broadcast timetable;

 a user input interface for submitting user's request for Internet files;

a request manager coupled to said user input interface for identifying Internet files requested by user and also coupled to said broadcast timetable processor for obtaining transmission time and channel of each file requested by user and listed in the broadcast timetable, said request manager further coupled to said transmitter for sending a request to server for each file requested by user and not listed in the broadcast timetable;

a reception control coupled to said request manager for determining transmission time and channel of each file requested by user and further coupled to said channel selector for providing downloading of the file at the time and from the channel of its transmission;

a file storage coupled to said reception control for storing downloaded files; and

a user output interface coupled to said file storage for presenting downloaded files to user.

6. A system as defined in claim 5; and further comprising a receiver coupled with said communication link for receiving data addressed to client.

DOCUMENT NUMBER